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Letter dated 17 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with shock and dismay that I am writing to inform you that ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists have committed yet another heinous crime in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia. In an attempt to prevent the Serbs from returning to their homes, they burned down and bulldozed 250 Serbian houses in the village of Belo Polje, near Pec, on 15 April 2000. The Serbs left the village last June, fleeing ethnic Albanian terrorism that erupted in the wake of the arrival of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to this Serbian province. Before burning and bulldozing them, the ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists looted the Serbian houses, ferrying all the furniture and other belongings in over 15 trucks. The crime is telltale proof that the intention of the ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists was to erase every trace of the existence of the village, to prevent the Serbs from ever returning to their homes and to complete the ethnic cleansing.

This act of modern-day vandalism lasted for hours. Yet, KFOR and UNMIK did nothing to prevent it from taking place. By their indifference, the international presences demonstrated once again that they are unable, or unwilling, to carry out one of their main tasks mandated by Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999: ensuring a secure environment and providing personal and property security for all residents of Kosovo and Metohija. By failing to act, they have violated the said resolution and exacerbated the already difficult situation in Kosovo and Metohija, discouraging the return of Serbs and other non-Albanians to which the international community has made a firm commitment.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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